

REMARKS

Claims 22-37 are now pending in the application. New claims 22-37 have been added and claims 1-21 have been cancelled. Support for the new claims can be found in the written description, drawings, and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-10 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coburn, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,892,216, hereinafter Coburn) in view of Rogers, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,282,469, hereinafter Rogers). Claims 1-5 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coburn in view of Kim, et al. (U.S. Pub. App. No. 2004/0019736, hereinafter Kim) in view of Roger. This rejection is respectfully traversed. These rejections are moot because these claims have been cancelled.

With regard to new independent claims 22, 27, and 32, Coburn, Rogers, and Kim are all deficient in teaching the limitations of these claims. Specifically, claim 27 recites a vehicle having "an interface processor [that], when a portable memory device is connected to the communications port, 'identif[ies] software files stored on the portable memory device for each of the multiple vehicle processors, load[s] the identified software files onto the multiple vehicle processors, and transmit[s] diagnostic information received from the multiple vehicle processors to the portable memory device."

Rogers teaches automotive service system data sensors, each with a microcontroller. However, Rogers does not teach, suggest, or disclose multiple vehicle processors that “generate diagnostic information indicating success of software installation on the multiple vehicle processors,” as claim 27 recites. The Examiner turns to Coburn for this teaching, which Applicant respectfully submits is not present.

Coburn teaches an interface device for a test bench to interface with various equipment sensors at a repair shop. While the interface processor 120 may use USB as an interface, Coburn does not teach, suggest, or disclose a portable memory device according to claim 27. While the portable memory device of claim 27 may be implemented as a USB drive, the key is that it is portable, not that it is USB.

Claim 27 allows a vehicle assembly operation where portable memory devices are pre-loaded with vehicle software. At a certain point in the assembly line, one of the portable memory devices is inserted into the vehicle. The interface processor of the vehicle then identifies and downloads appropriate software from the portable memory device as the vehicle continues down the assembly line. This software is installed on multiple vehicle processors, and diagnostic information indicating the success of software installation is saved back to the portable memory device. An external processor can then analyze this diagnostic information to ensure that the vehicle software installation phase of vehicle assembly has completed successfully.

Coburn could not teach identifying software files for multiple vehicle processors because Coburn does not contemplate multiple vehicle processors. In fact, Coburn is not concerned with even a single vehicle processor. Coburn discloses a single microcontroller 200 that is used to receive testing data from sensors used at a repair

shop on a vehicle. In addition, Coburn could not teach loading identified software files onto multiple vehicle processors. Instead, the interface processor of Coburn 120 downloads software for itself to run, not for "multiple vehicle processors."

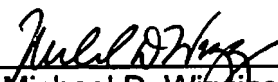
Claims 22 and 32 are in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons as claim 27. The remaining claims ultimately depend from claims 22, 27, and 32, and are thus in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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